We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture:

**Thomas Aquinas between East and West: Byzantine and Modern Orthodox Readings of Latin Scholasticism**

On Monday, January 14, 2019, at 5:00 PM
New Europe College (Plantelor 21)

given by

Dr Marcus PLESTED
Professor of Greek Patristic and Byzantine Theology
Marquette University
Department of Theology

***

Aquinas was received with astonishing enthusiasm across the Byzantine theological spectrum. By contrast, modern Orthodox readings of Aquinas have been resoundingly negative, routinely presenting Aquinas as the archetype of as a specifically Western form of theology against which the Orthodox East must set its face. Basing itself primarily on a close study of the Byzantine reception of Thomas, this study rejects such hackneyed dichotomies, arguing instead for a properly catholic or universal construal of Orthodoxy - one in which Thomas might once again find a place. In its probing of the East-West dichotomy, this book questions the widespread juxtaposition of Gregory
Palamas and Thomas Aquinas as archetypes of opposing Greek and Latin theological traditions. The long period between the Fall of Constantinople and the Russian Revolution, conventionally written off as an era of sterility and malformation for Orthodox theology, is also viewed with a fresh perspective. Study of the reception of Thomas in this period reveals a theological sophistication and a generosity of vision that is rarely accounted for.

Marcus Plested (D.Phil., Oxford University, 1999), professor of Patristic, Byzantine, and Modern Orthodox Theology (Theology Department, Marquette University), has been a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, and has taught, lectured, and published widely in patristic, Byzantine, and modern Orthodox theology. He is the author of two books to date: *The Macarian Legacy: The Place of Macarius-Symeon in the Eastern Christian Tradition* (Oxford: OUP 2004) and *Orthodox Readings of Aquinas* (Oxford: OUP 2012).

This event is organized in collaboration with The Institute for the History of Religions, Romanian Academy, and supported by a grant of the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P3-3.6-H2020-2016-0018, within PNCDI III.